AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16-20 were pending at the time the Office action was issued.

Claims 1, 7, 19 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16-20 remain pending.

1. (**Currently Amended**) A ground rod cap, comprising:

a crown portion, the crown portion ~~configured with~~ comprising a cylindrical cavity ~~to receive~~ for receiving a ground rod ~~and to deflect a falling object away from the ground rod~~, the cylindrical cavity protruding from the crown portion and having a first end for receiving the ground rod and a second end for engaging an end of the ground rod ~~an inner surface of the crown portion defining a void that encircles a portion of the cylindrical cavity~~; and

a support portion connected to the crown portion, the support portion comprising ~~configured to cover a ground rod clamp connecting a ground wire to the ground rod, and including~~ a curved wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein the inner surface defines a hollow cylinder that surrounds a ~~the~~ ground rod clamp attaching a ~~the~~ ground wire to a the ground rod, such that the location of the ground rod, ground rod clamp, and ground wire attachment is surrounded by a cylindrical void.

2. (**Canceled**)

3. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the crown portion is curved.

4. **(Original)** The cap of claim 3, wherein the outer surface of the crown portion defines a dome.

5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 1, wherein:

the ground rod cap defines a first axis; and

the cylindrical cavity defines a second axis, wherein the second axis is coincident with the first axis.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The cap of claim 1, ~~wherein the cylindrical cavity has a first end proximate the bottom surface of the crown portion and a second end opposite the first end, and~~ wherein the second end of the cavity is positioned away from the outer surface of the crown portion by a distance greater than or equal to a diameter associated with the cylindrical cavity.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 1, wherein the void is bounded by a curved surface.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 1, wherein:

the cap has a first maximum depth associated therewith; and

the void has a second maximum depth associated therewith, wherein the first maximum depth is greater than the second maximum depth.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 1, wherein the curved wall is a continuously curving wall.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 1, wherein the curved wall has a uniform thickness.

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Original)** The cap of claim 1, wherein the crown portion and the support portion are fabricated from a rubber-like material.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The cap of claim 16, wherein the rubber-like material is PVC plastic.

18. (**Original**) The cap of claim 1, wherein the crown portion and the support portion are integral.

19. (**Currently Amended**) A ground rod cap, comprising:

a closed end;

an open end opposite the closed end,

an outer surface;

an inner surface; and

a ground rod receptacle within the ground rod cap, the ground rod receptacle ~~which protrudes~~ protruding from the closed end towards the open end of the ground rod cap ~~and is defined by the inner surface of the ground rod cap~~, the ground rod receptacle comprising ~~defining~~ a central cavity within the ground rod receptacle to receive a ground rod, the central cavity having a first end for receiving the ground rod and a second end for engaging an end of the ground rod, the ground rod receptacle further defining curved side surfaces which are surrounded by a cylindrical void within the ground rod cap.

20. (**Currently Amended**) A ground rod cap, comprising:

a crown portion comprising ~~including~~:

~~an outer surface which is curved to define~~ a domed surface ~~dome~~ having a closed first end and an open second end;

~~an inner surface;~~

a ground rod receptacle, ~~which~~ the ground rod receptacle ~~protrudes~~ protruding from the closed first end towards the open second end ~~of the crown~~

~~portion and is defined by the inner surface of the crown portion,~~ the ground rod receptacle comprising ~~defining~~ a central cavity within the ground rod receptacle to receive for receiving a ground rod, the central cavity having a first end for receiving the ground rod and a second end for engaging an end of the ground rod ~~the ground rod receptacle further defining curved side surfaces which are surrounded by a cylindrical void within the crown portion, wherein the cylindrical void facilitates deformation of the dome when an object strikes~~ the ground rod cap ~~to deflect the object away from the ground rod~~; and

a support portion comprising ~~including~~ a cylindrical wall, wherein the cylindrical wall is connected to the open second end of the domed surface ~~and extending from the open second end of the crown portion~~ to define a hollow cylindrical opening configured to cover a ground rod clamp for attaching a ground wire to the ground rod.